

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 SAM-01 ACDA-07 /096 W

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R 140750Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3463

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

ZEP/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, TS, LB

SUBJECT: LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN TRADE UNION GROUP VISITS TUNIS

REF: TUNIS 4780

1. JULY 13 TUNIS PRESS CARRIED REPORT THAT DELEGATION OF
GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN WORKERS AND NATIONAL UNION OF
SYNDICATES AND LEBANESE WORKERS HEADED BY ZEID WAHBA
VISITED TUNIS RECENTLY TO MEET WITH GENERAL UNION OF
TUNISIAN WORKERS (UGTT) SECRETARY GENERAL HABIB ACHOUR.
THE THREE TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED A JOINT
COMMUNIQUE AFTER THEIR MEETINGS IN WHICH THEY DENOUNCED
SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON AND ACCUSED LEBANESE
"ISOLATIONISTS" OF SABOTAGING ARAB MEDIATION EFFORTS.
THEY DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL
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OF SYRIAN FORCES AND RECOMMENDED THAT THEY RETURN WHERE

THEY BELONG; I.E., FACING THE "ZIONIST ENEMY." THEY FURTHER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "ARAB INITIATIVE" WILL FOLLOW ITS COURSE SO THAT LEBANESE CAN SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND THAT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BE GUARANTEED RIGHT TO BE BASED IN LEBANON AND CARRY ARMS UNDER AUTHORITY OF PLO.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE, DELEGATION HEAD WAHBA PRAISED EFFORTS OF UGTT IN SUPPORT PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND CHARACTERIZED DEVELOPMENTS OF LAST 18 MONTHS IN LEBANON AS A "VAST PLOT" TO LIQUIDATE THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND THE

LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, TO EFFECT PARTITION OF LEBANON INTO A "RACIAL ENTITY," AND TO PERMIT THE ANNEXATION OF THE SOUTH OF LEBANON BY ISRAEL.

3. THE ARRIVAL OF THIS TRADE UNION DELEGATION WAS PROBABLY A RESPONSE TO THE UGTT'S JULY 1 DECLARATION ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION (SEE REFTEL). THE TENOR OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE INDICATES THE UGTT'S FULL ALIGNMENT WITH THE PALESTINIAN, MOSLEM, AND "PROGRESSIVE" SIDE OF THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR.
MULCAHY

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